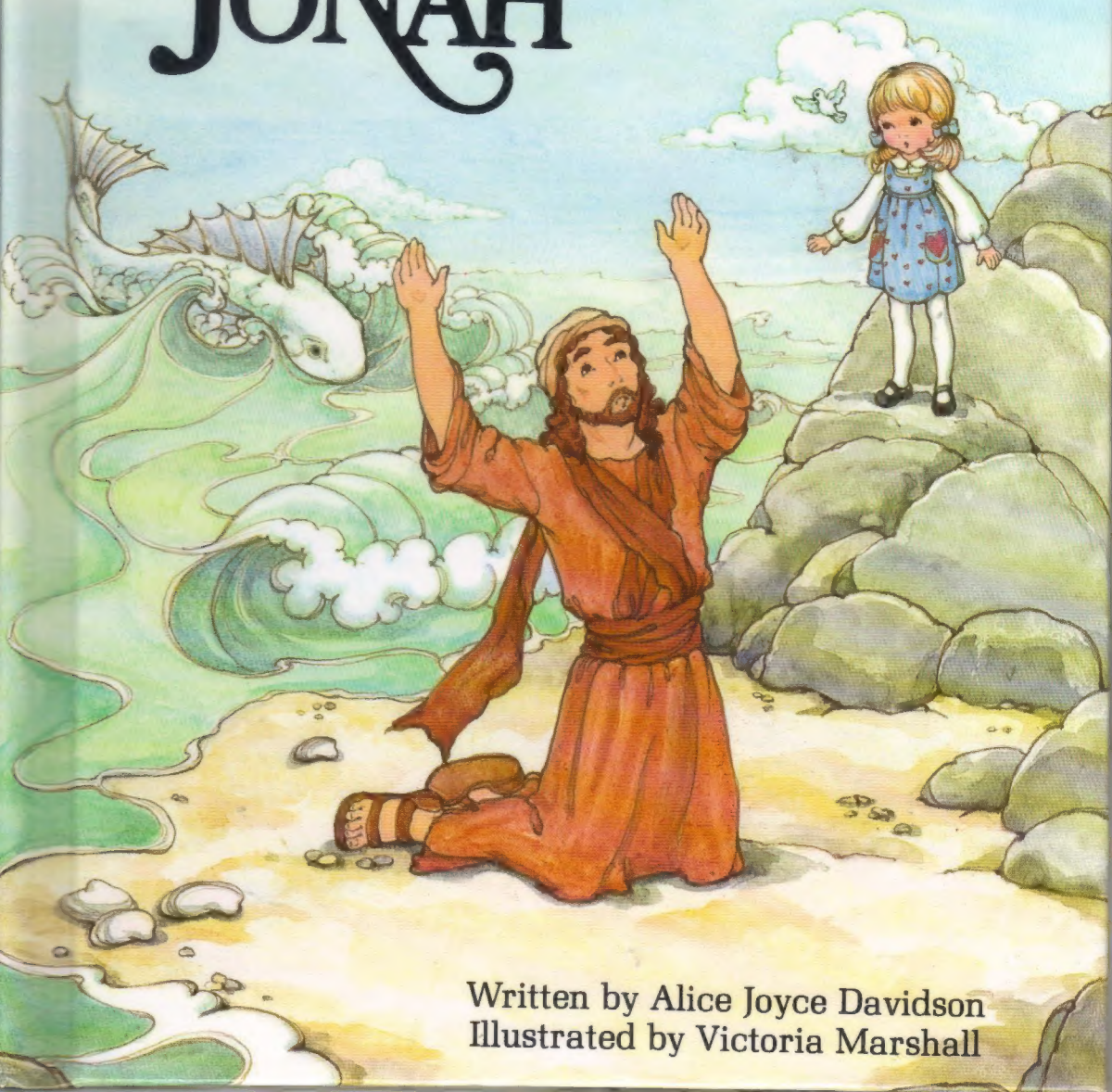


The STORY Of JONAH

An
ALICE
IN
BIBLELAND®
Storybook



Written by Alice Joyce Davidson
Illustrated by Victoria Marshall

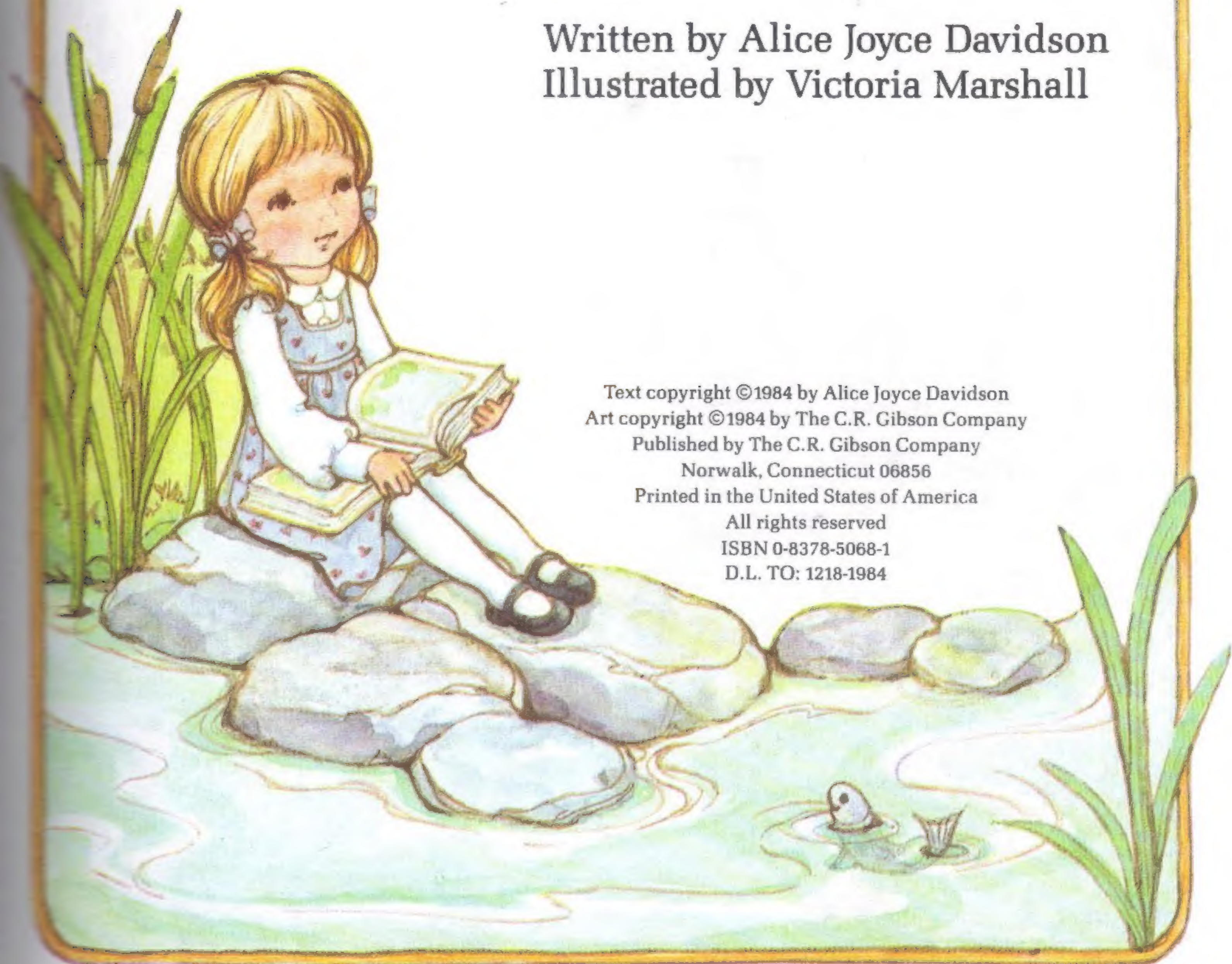


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Written by Alice Joyce Davidson
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Alice was a little girl
Who liked to sing and play.
She loved her Bible storybook
And read from it each day.

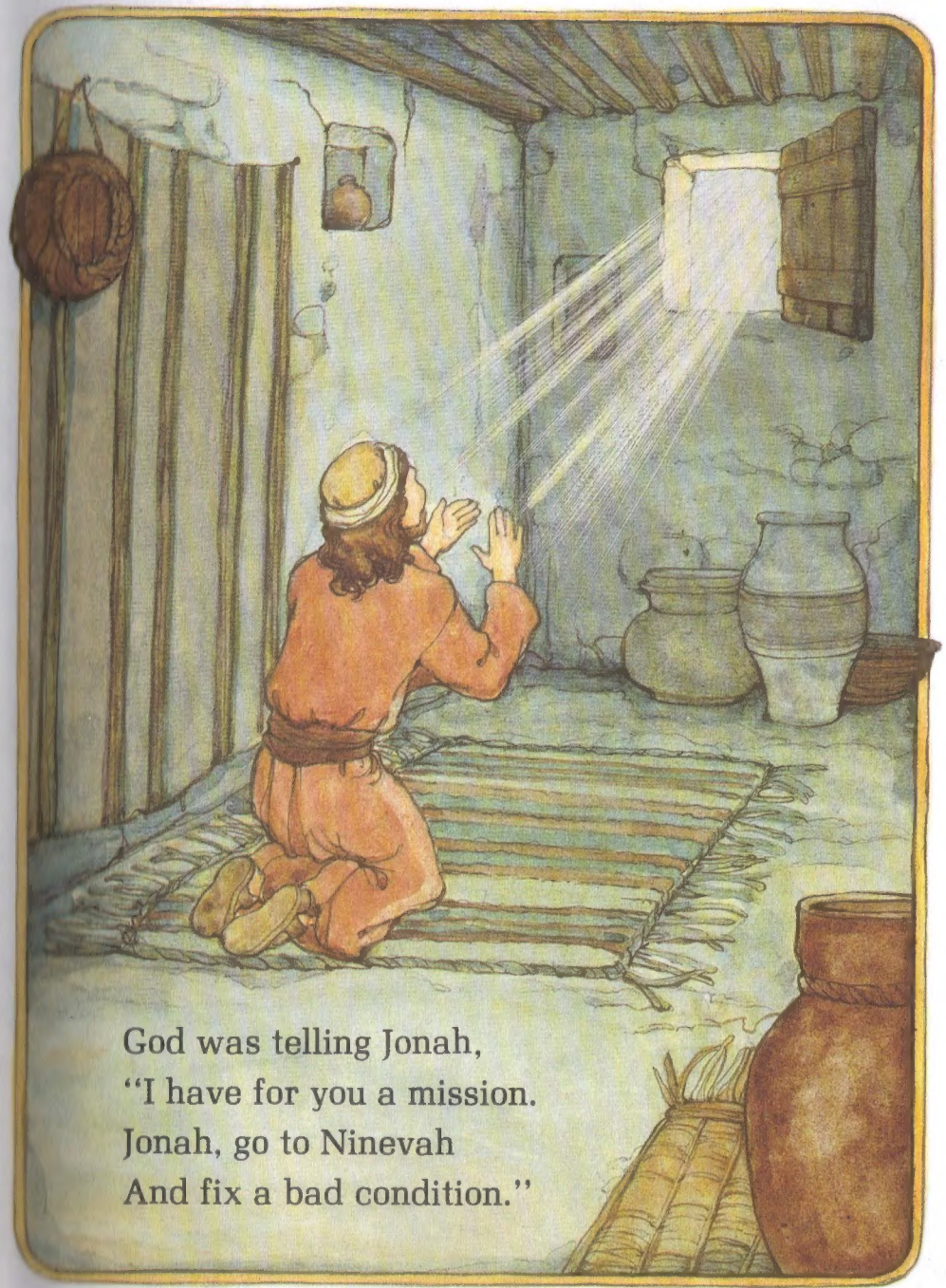


She was reading Jonah's story,
All about that Bible time,
When an airmail bird delivered
A note that had this rhyme:
"Reading is the special key
To take you where you want to be."



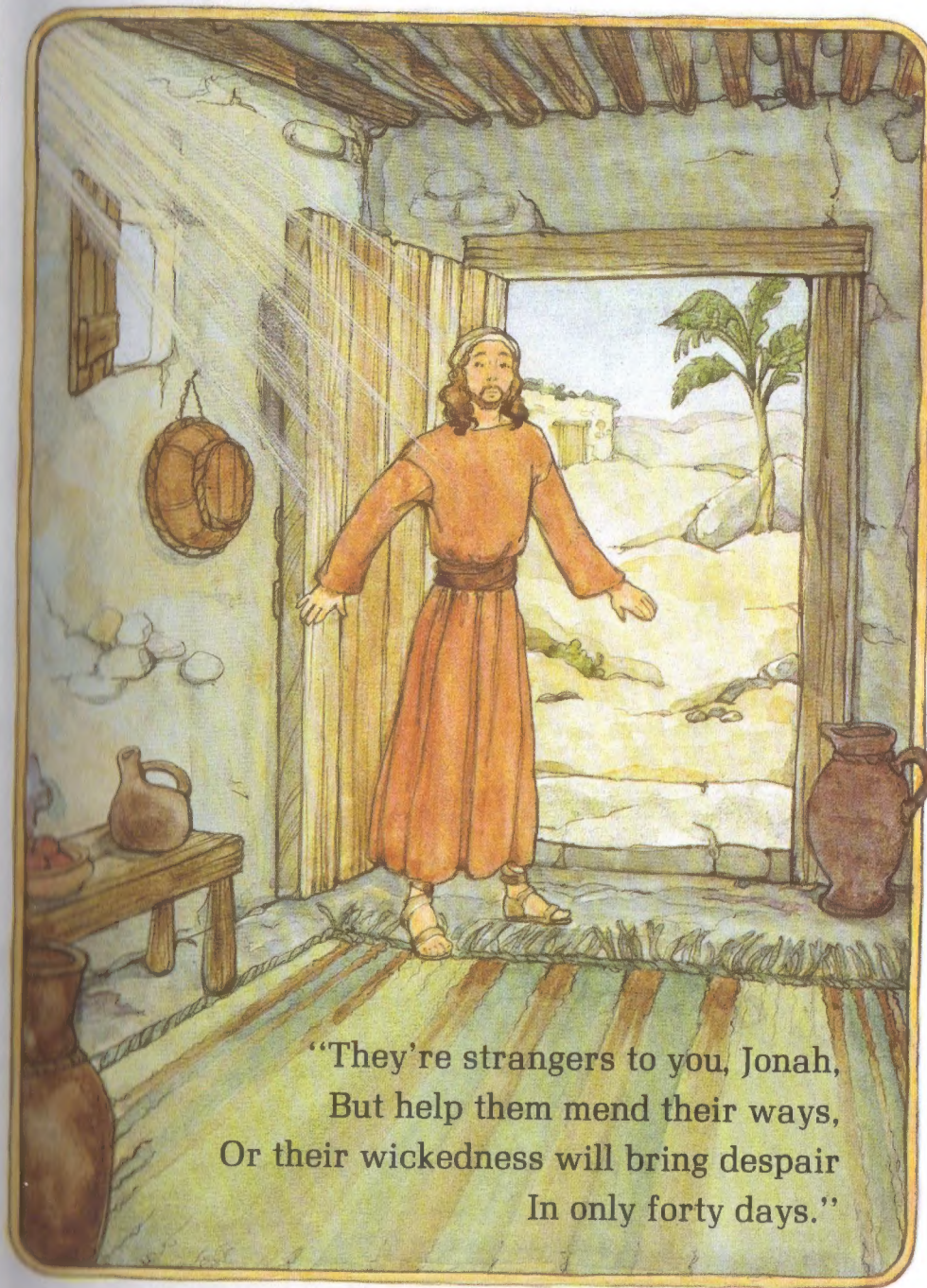


The book that Alice held became
A great big giant screen.
She walked on through to Bibleland
And came upon this scene.



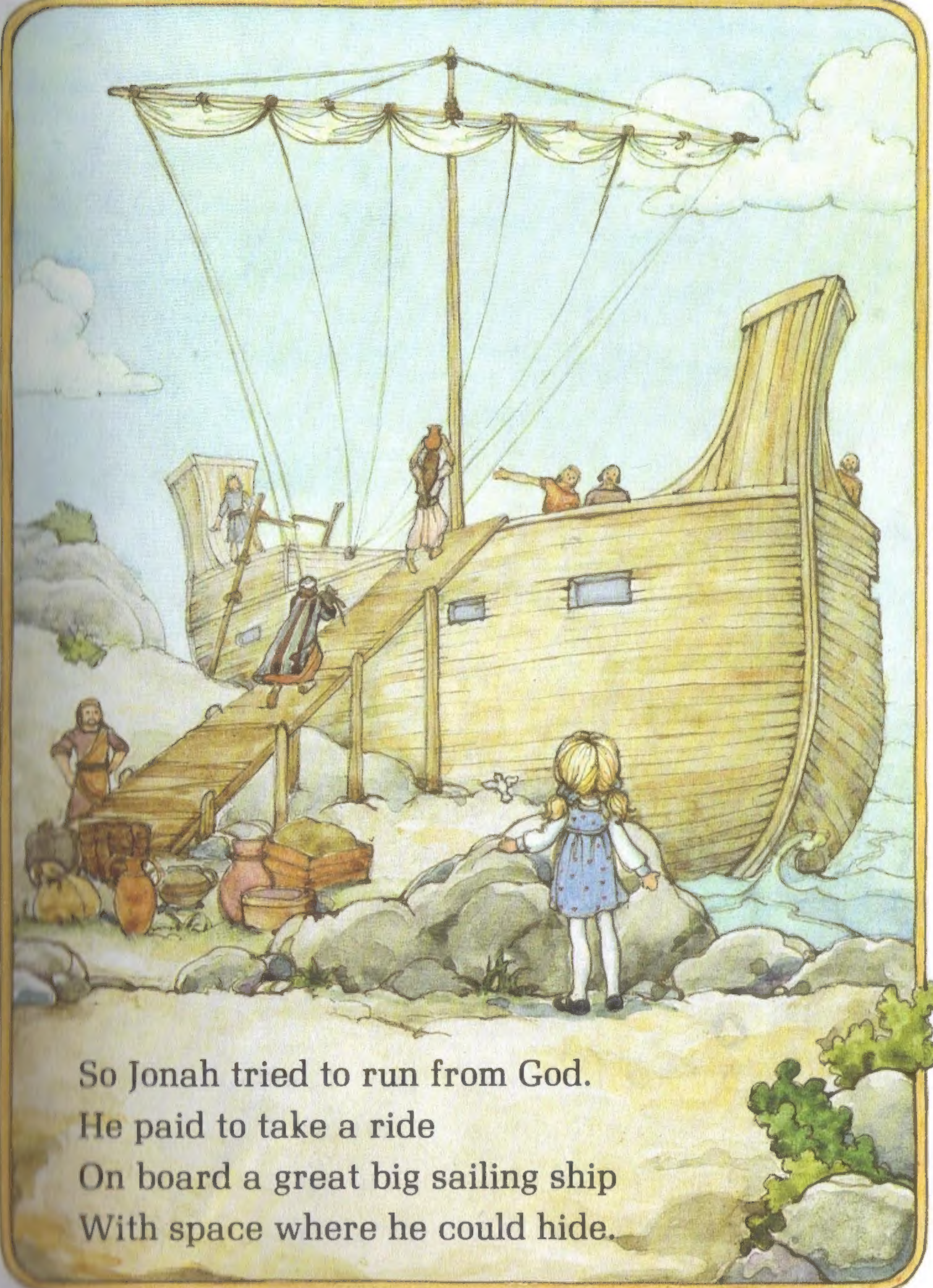
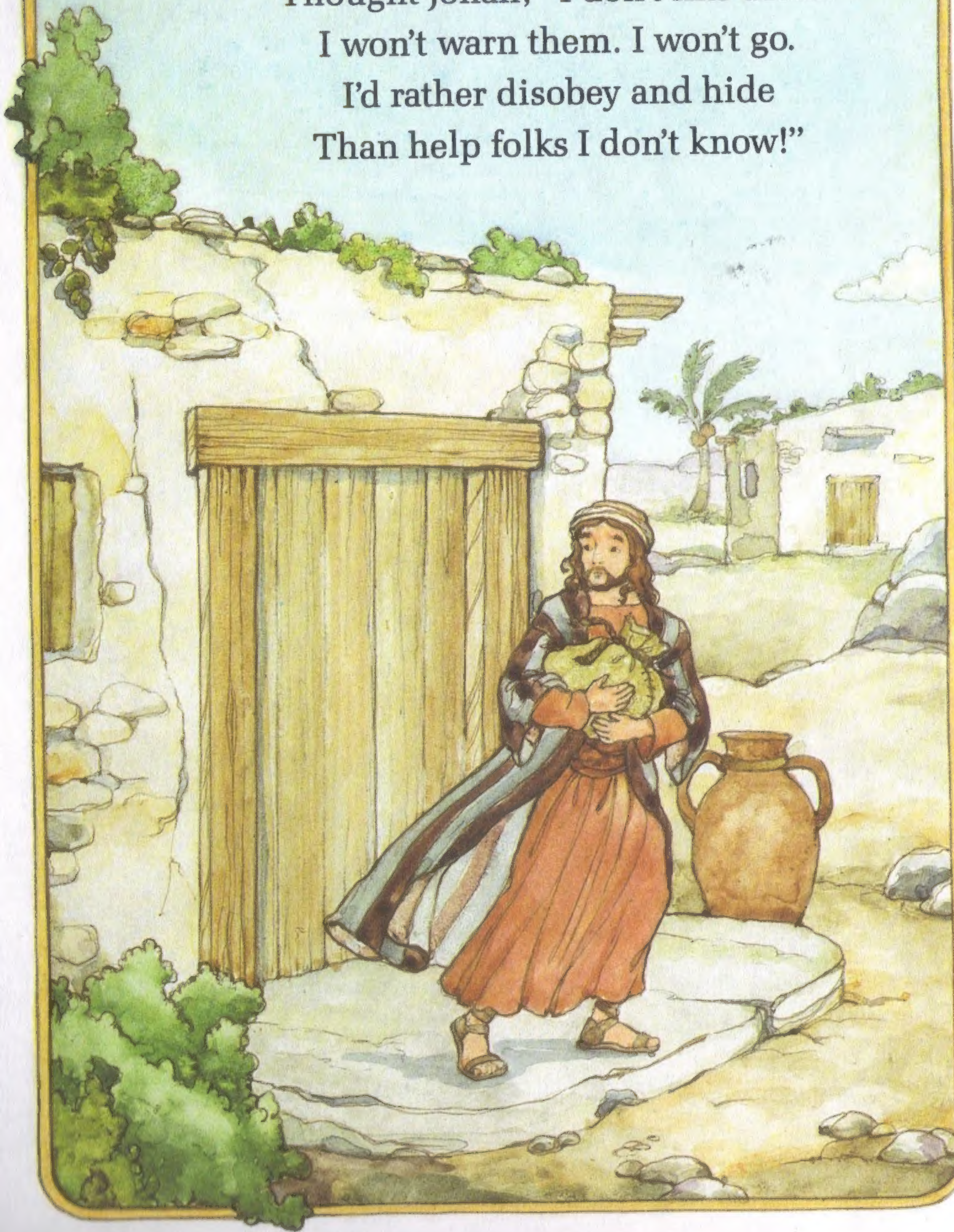
God was telling Jonah,
"I have for you a mission.
Jonah, go to Ninevah
And fix a bad condition."

"The people there are sinning.
They don't know right from wrong.
They need someone to warn them
Whose faith is very strong."

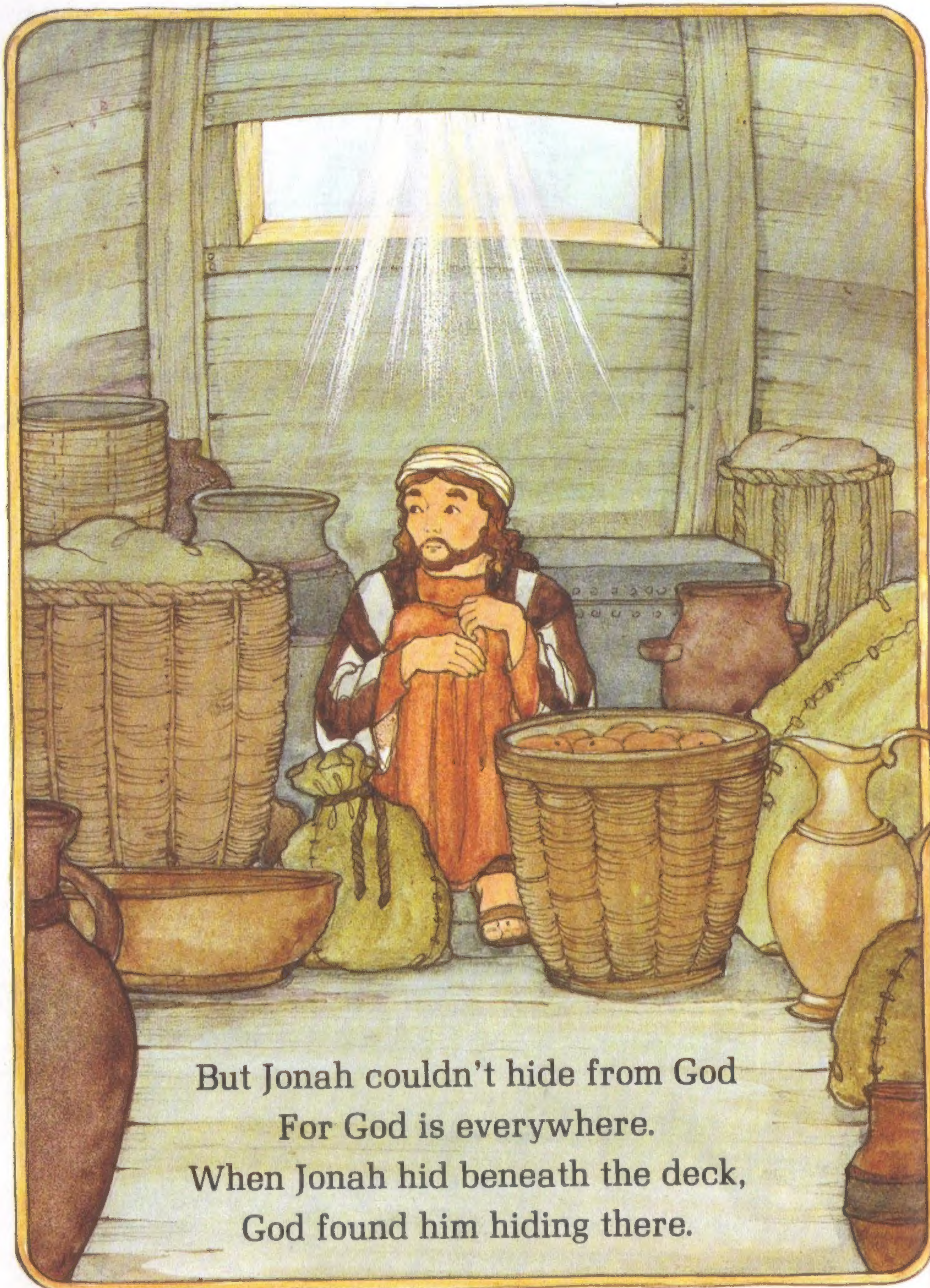


"They're strangers to you, Jonah,
But help them mend their ways,
Or their wickedness will bring despair
In only forty days."

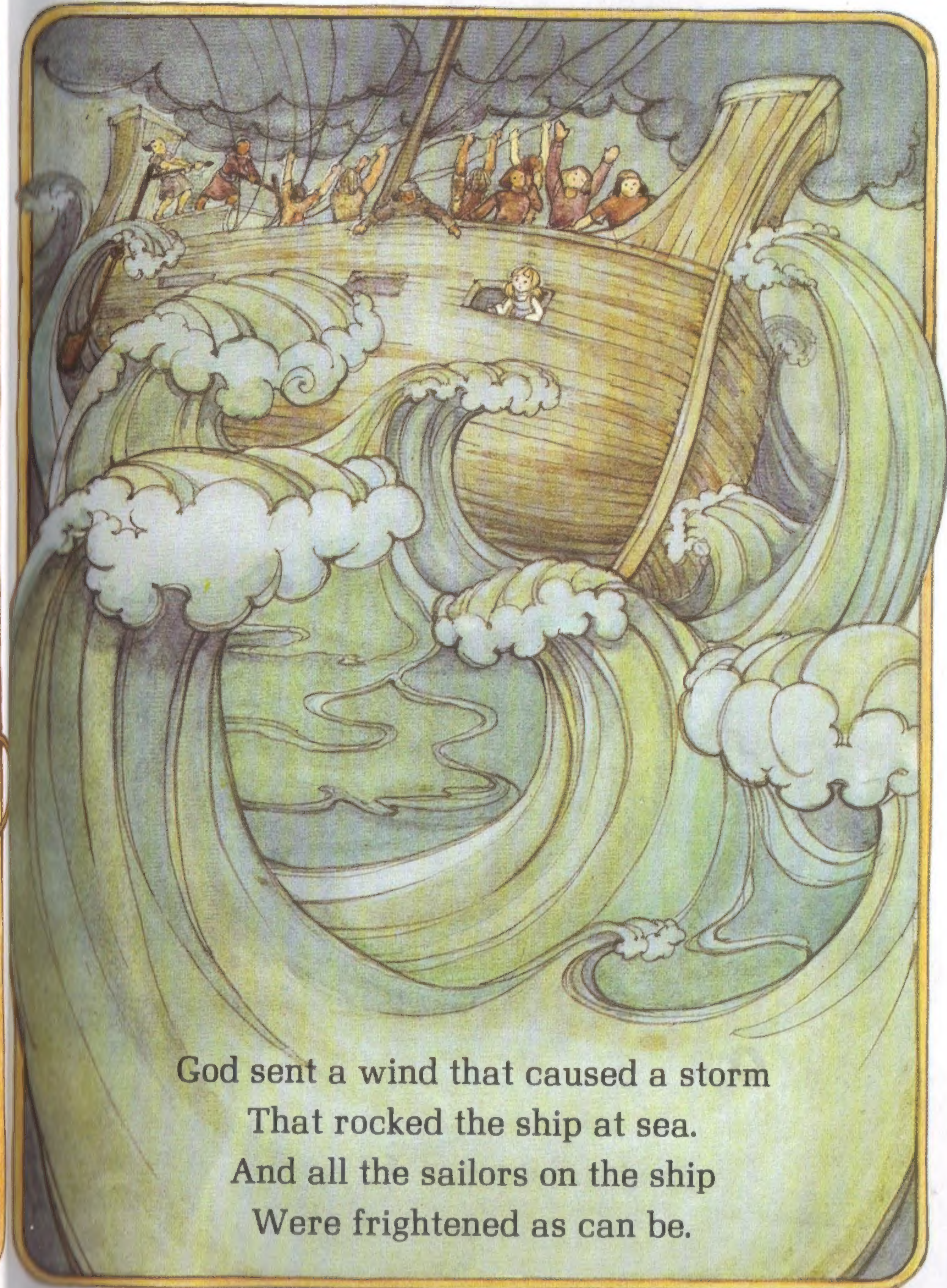
Thought Jonah, "I don't like them.
I won't warn them. I won't go.
I'd rather disobey and hide
Than help folks I don't know!"



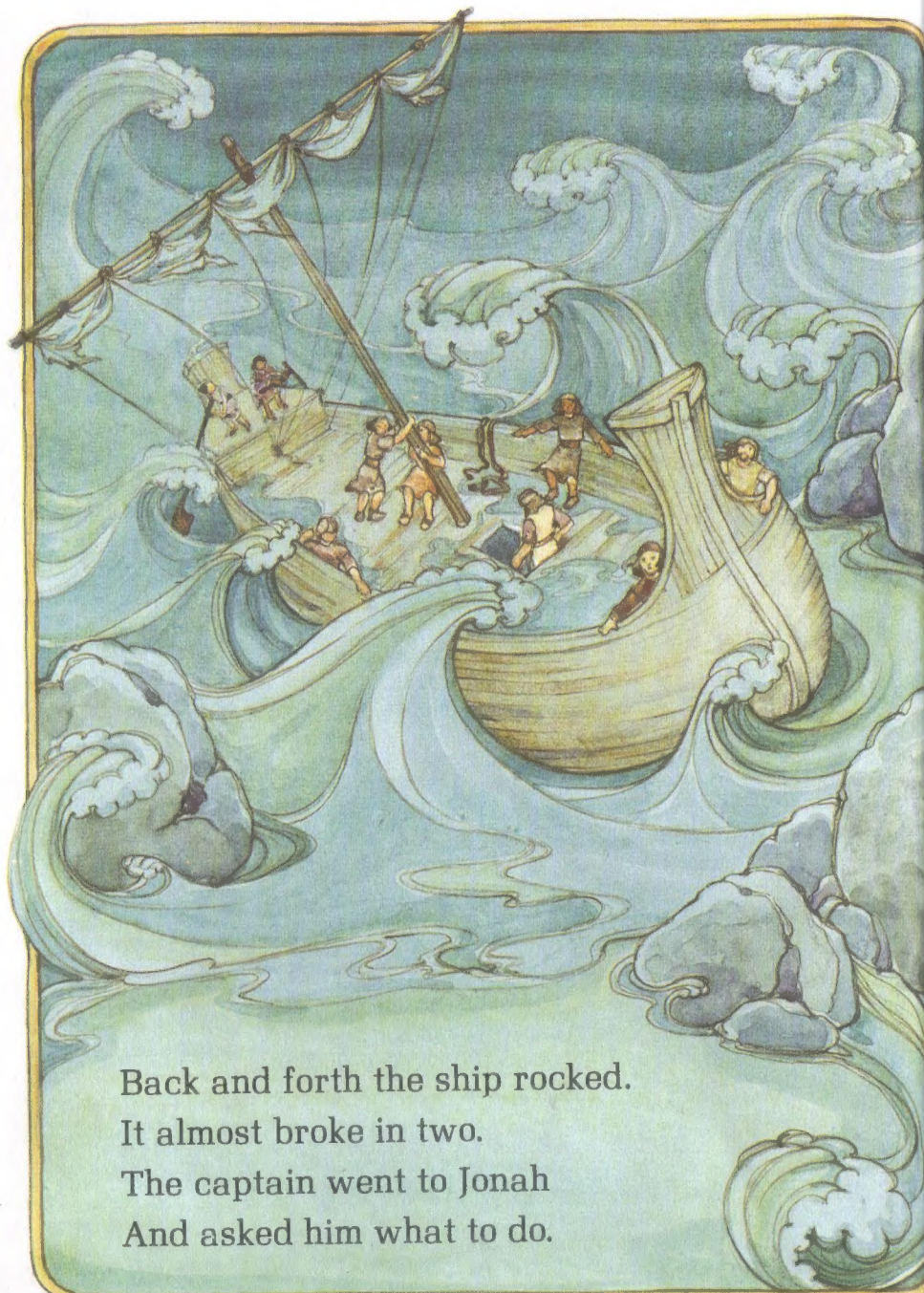
So Jonah tried to run from God.
He paid to take a ride
On board a great big sailing ship
With space where he could hide.



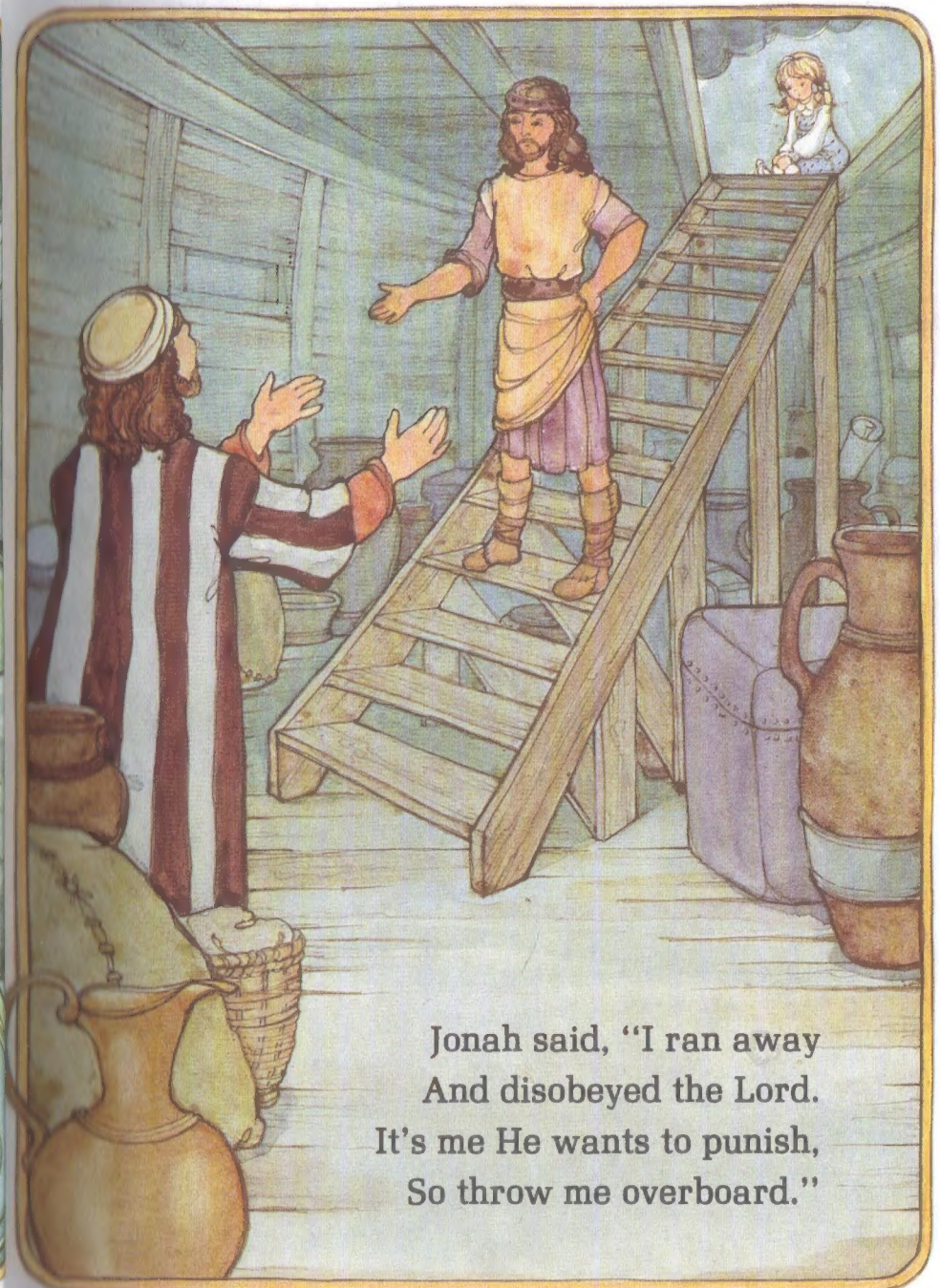
But Jonah couldn't hide from God
For God is everywhere.
When Jonah hid beneath the deck,
God found him hiding there.



God sent a wind that caused a storm
That rocked the ship at sea.
And all the sailors on the ship
Were frightened as can be.



Back and forth the ship rocked.
It almost broke in two.
The captain went to Jonah
And asked him what to do.

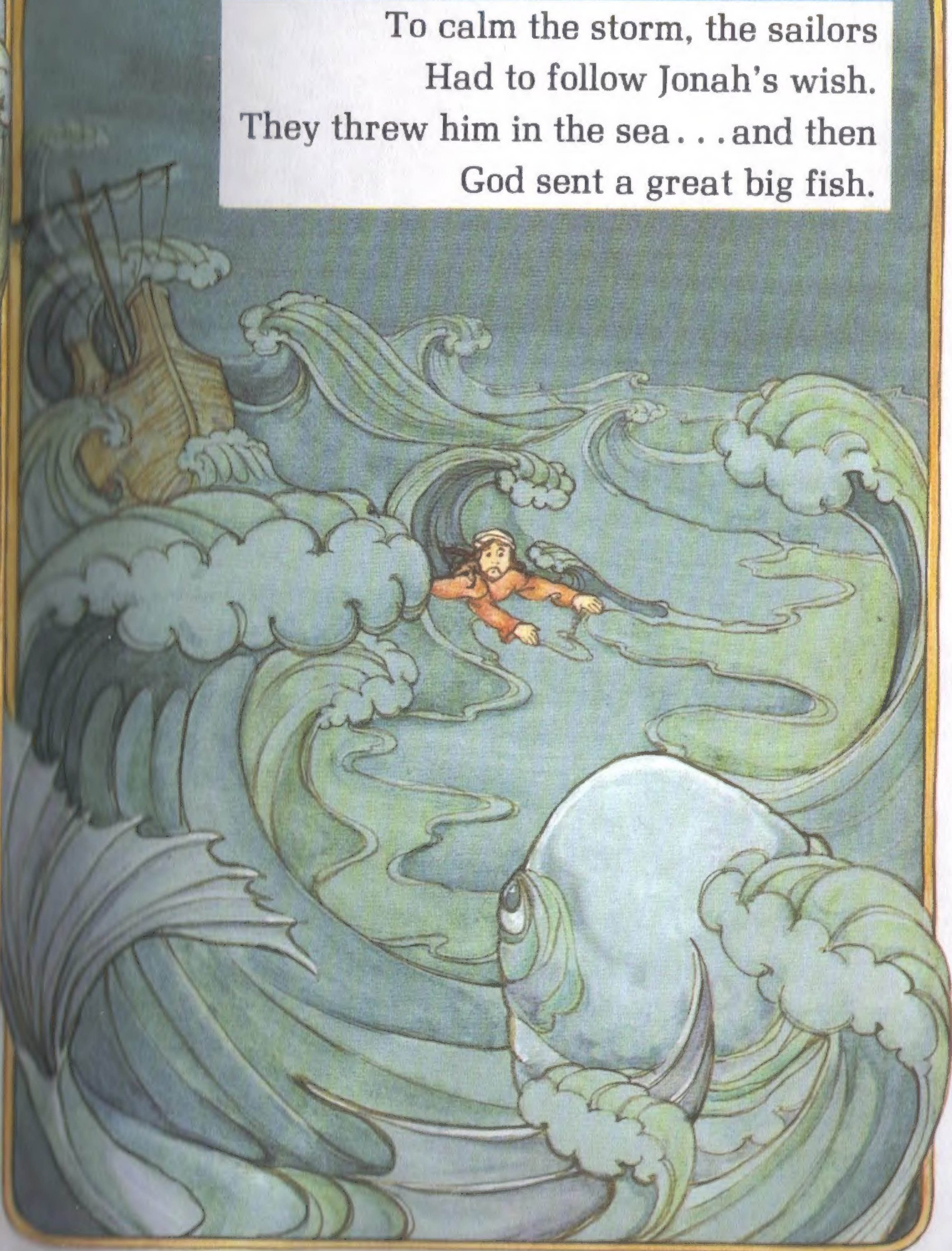


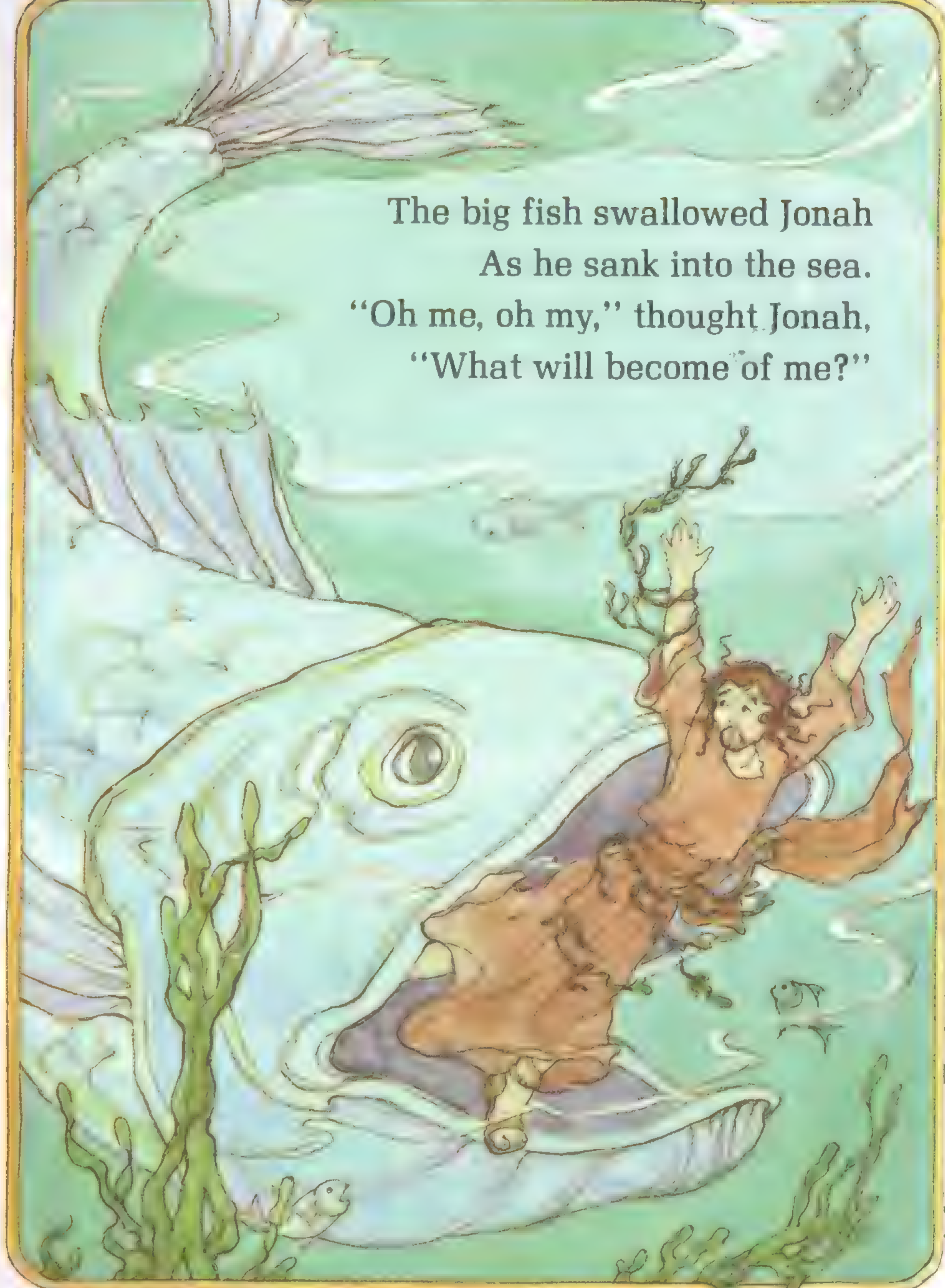
Jonah said, "I ran away
And disobeyed the Lord.
It's me He wants to punish,
So throw me overboard."

The sailors didn't want to do
As Jonah said they should.
The storm kept growing worse and worse
As Jonah knew it would.




To calm the storm, the sailors
Had to follow Jonah's wish.
They threw him in the sea . . . and then
God sent a great big fish.



A colorful illustration of a large, light blue fish with a wide open mouth, swallowing a man. The man, Jonah, is wearing a brown tunic and has his arms raised in a gesture of surprise or fear. The background is a light green sea with some seaweed and small fish.

The big fish swallowed Jonah
As he sank into the sea.
“Oh me, oh my,” thought Jonah,
“What will become of me?”

A dark, blue-toned illustration showing the interior of the fish's belly. Jonah is standing in the center, looking up with his arms raised in prayer. The walls of the belly are lined with concentric, wavy lines, creating a sense of depth and isolation. The lighting is dim, emphasizing the darkness of the space.

Inside the fish's belly
All alone and scared he stayed.
For three long days and three long nights
Jonah prayed and prayed.

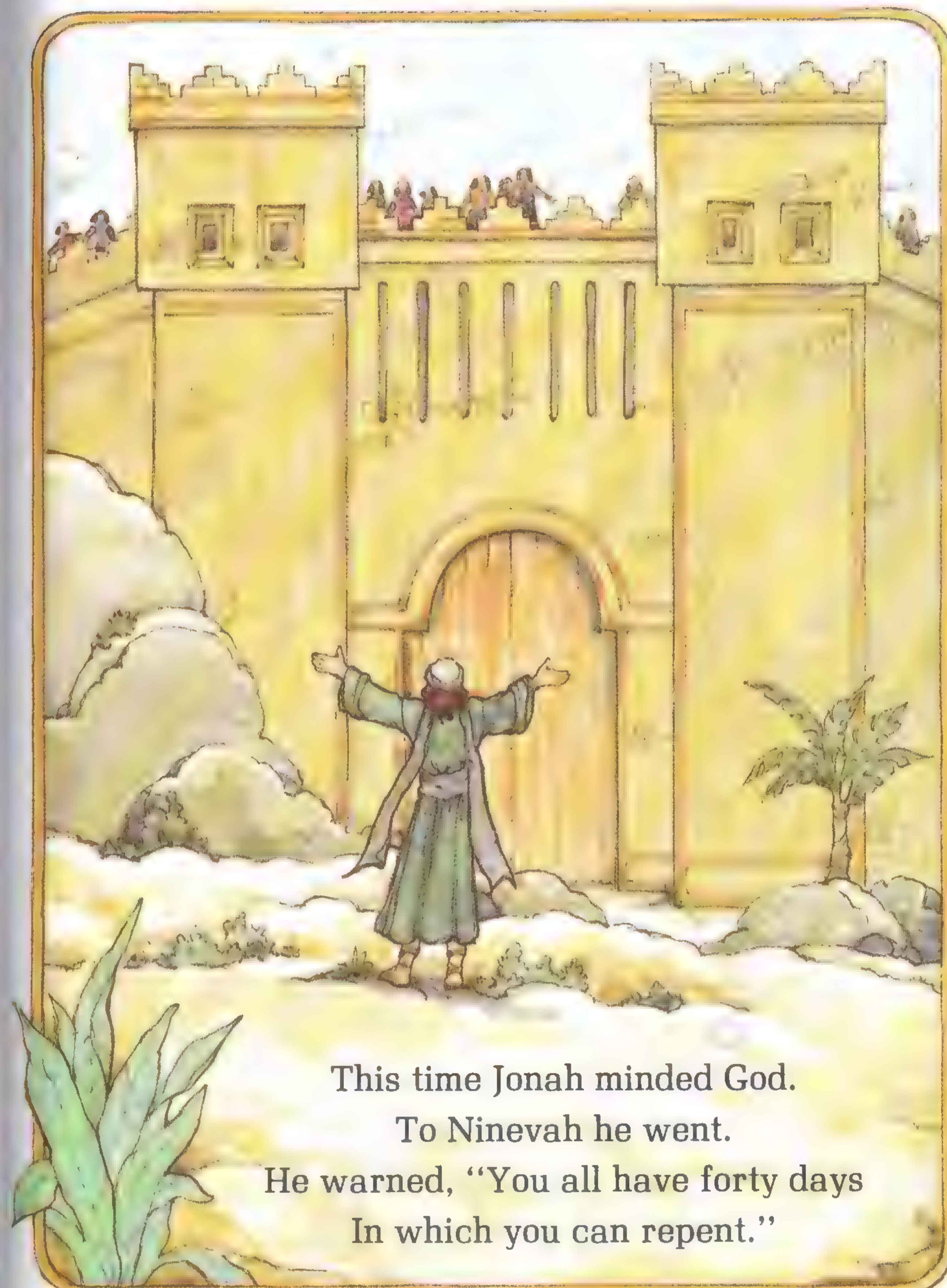
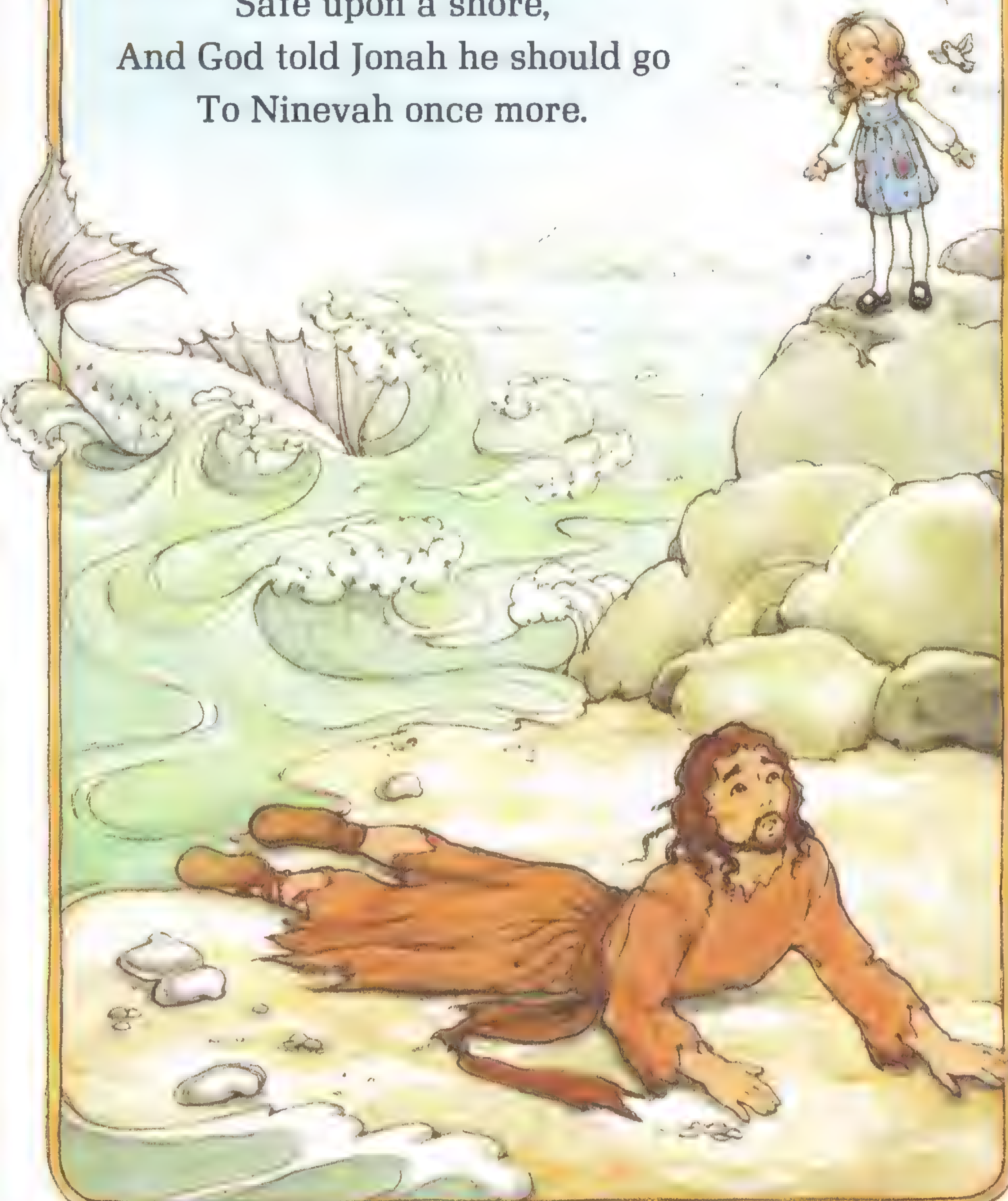


Jonah asked God to forgive him
For running far away,
For Jonah knew that it was wrong
To ever disobey.



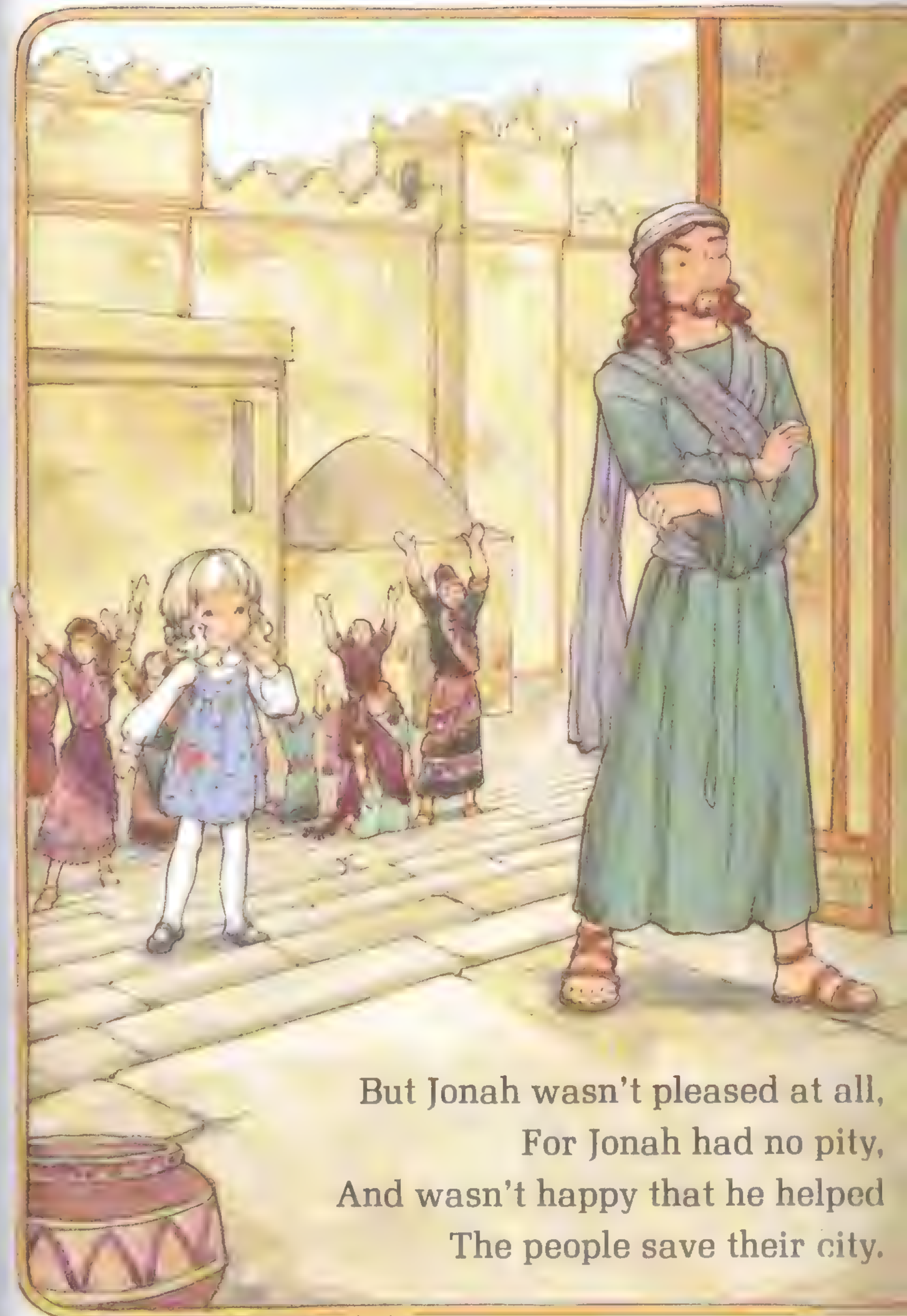
He thanked God for His mercy.
He thanked God for His care.
And from the bottom of the sea,
God heard his every prayer.

God had the fish blow Jonah out
Safe upon a shore,
And God told Jonah he should go
To Ninevah once more.

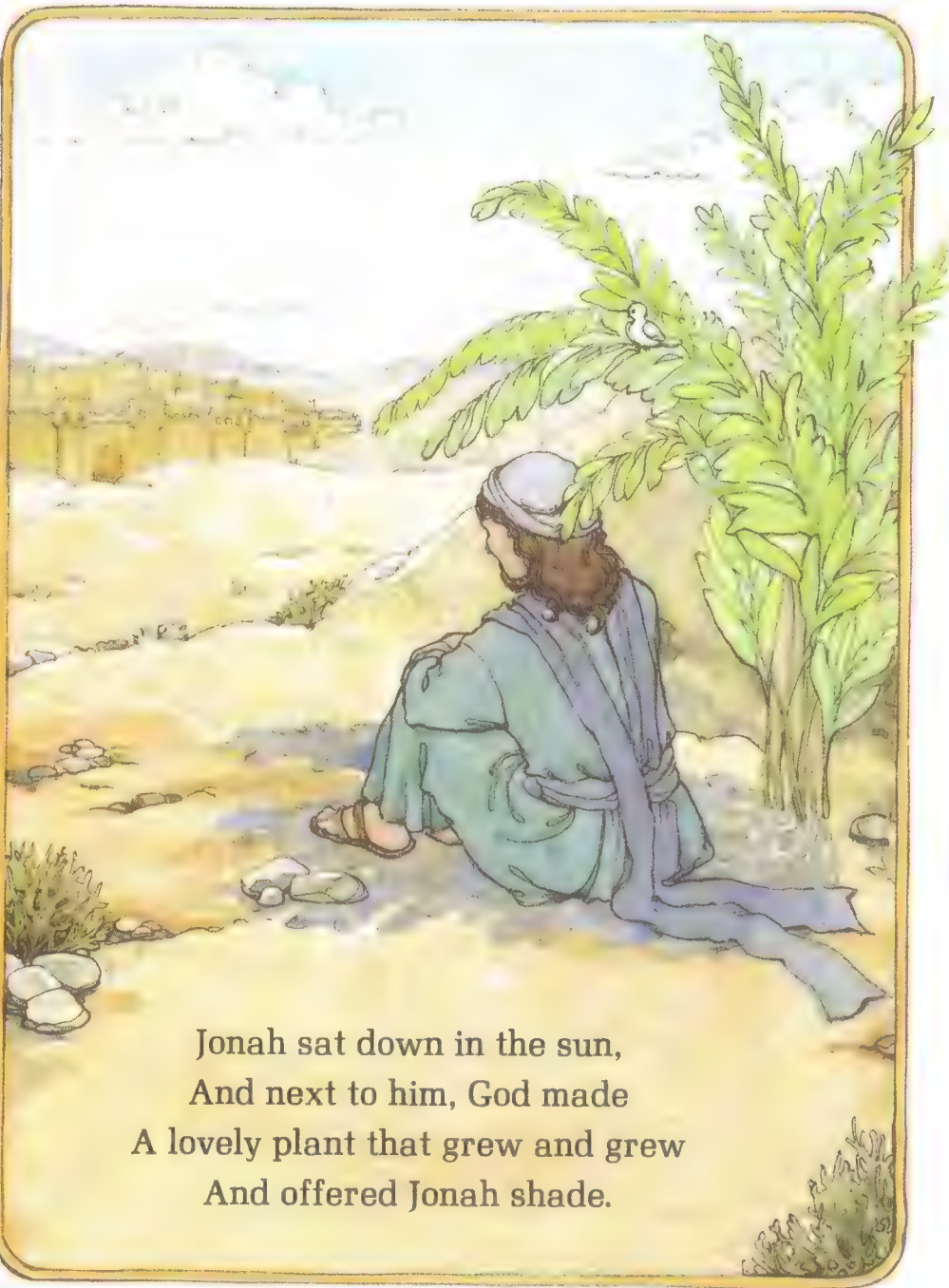


This time Jonah minded God.
To Ninevah he went.
He warned, "You all have forty days
In which you can repent."

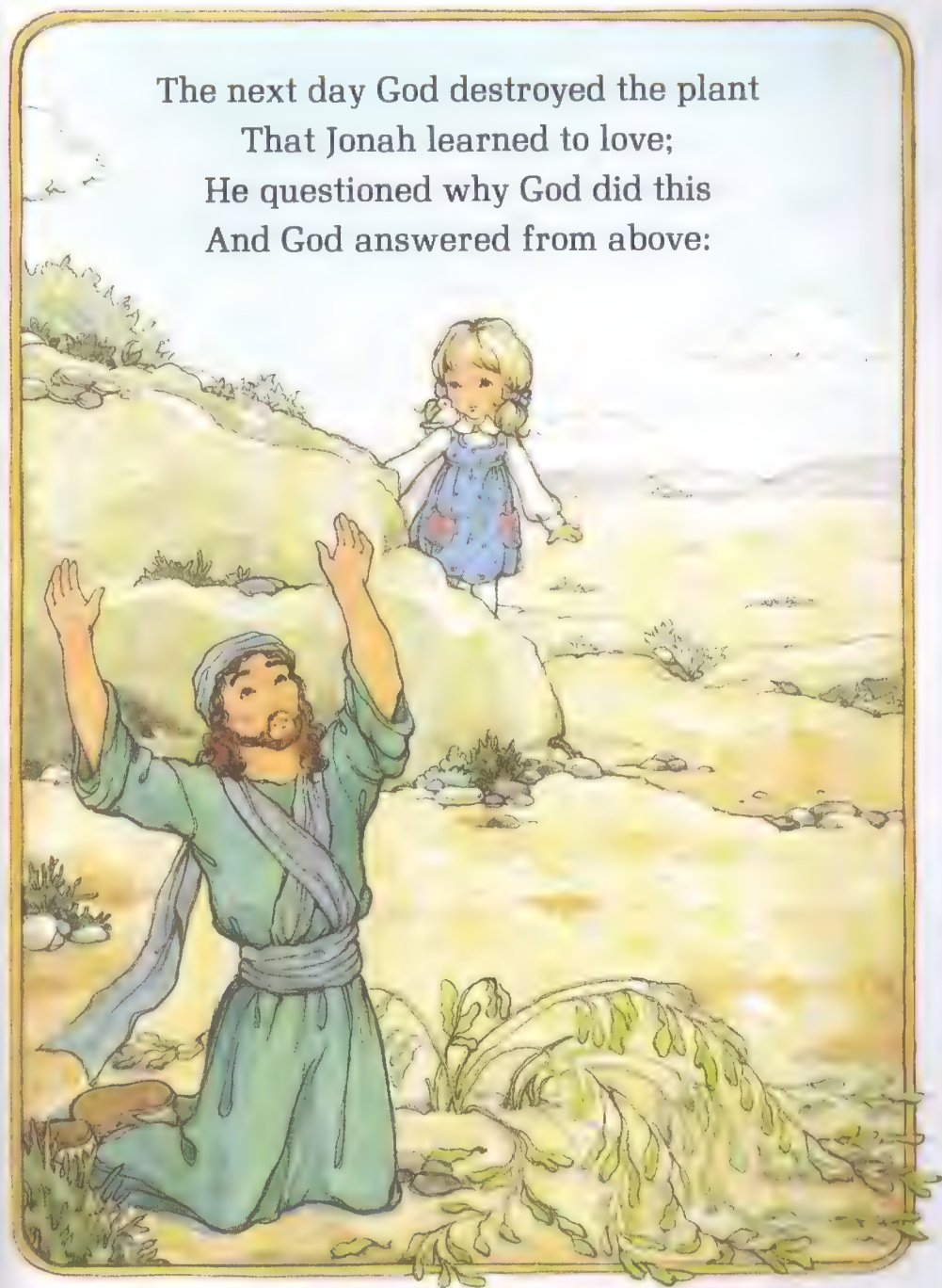
The people there all listened.
They repented, every one.
And God forgave and spared them
When He saw what they had done.



But Jonah wasn't pleased at all,
For Jonah had no pity,
And wasn't happy that he helped
The people save their city.

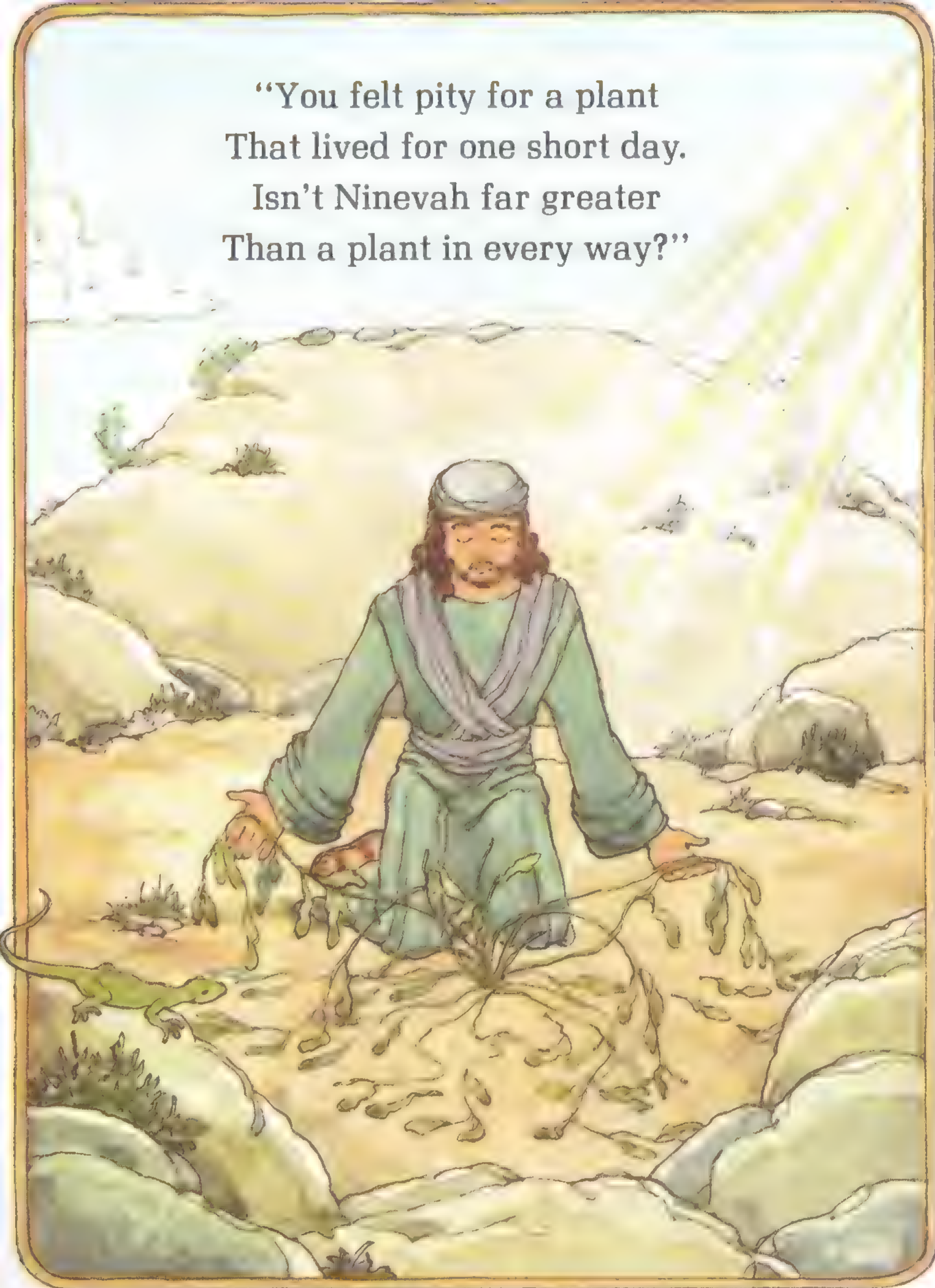


Jonah sat down in the sun,
And next to him, God made
A lovely plant that grew and grew
And offered Jonah shade.

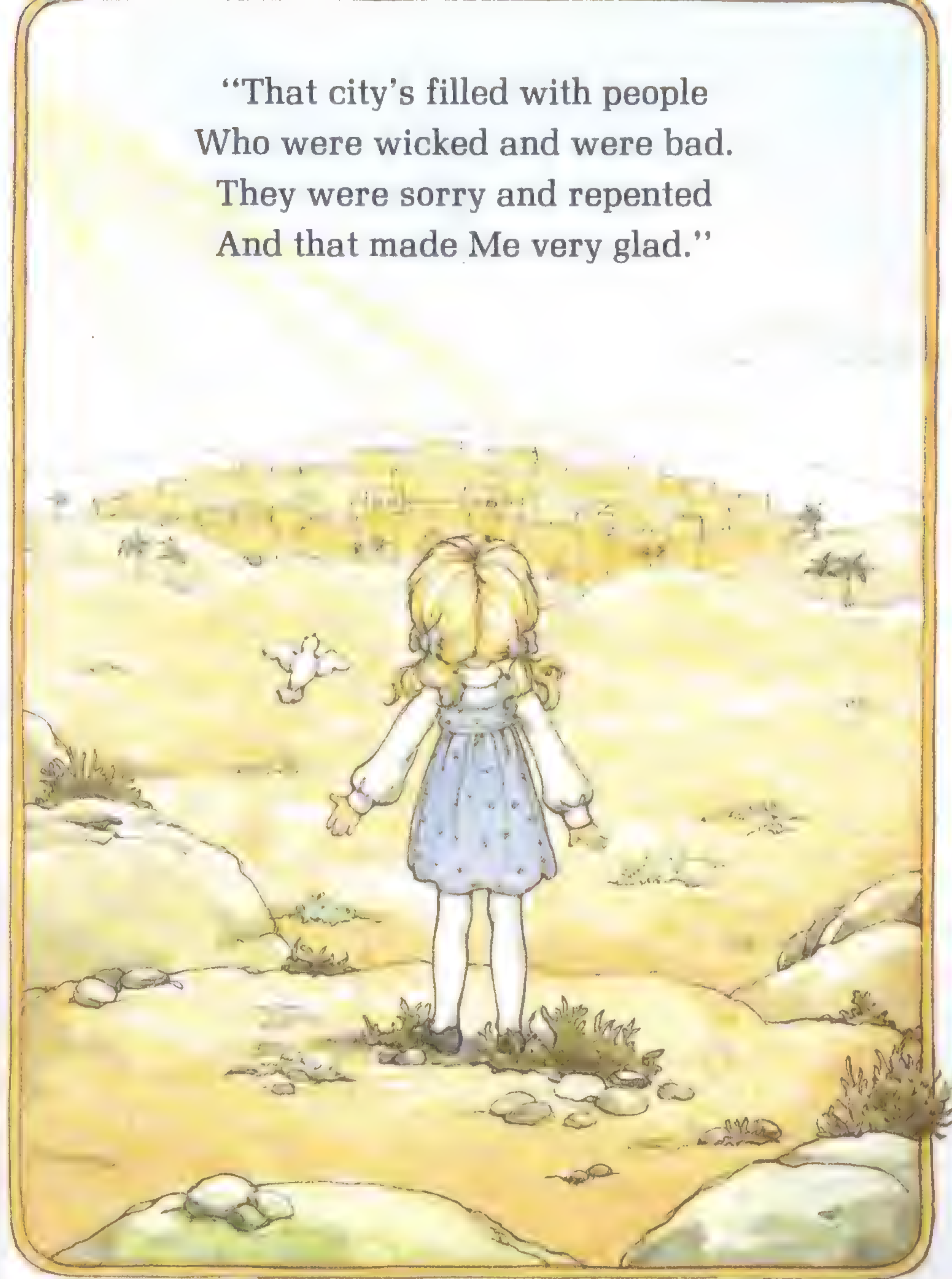


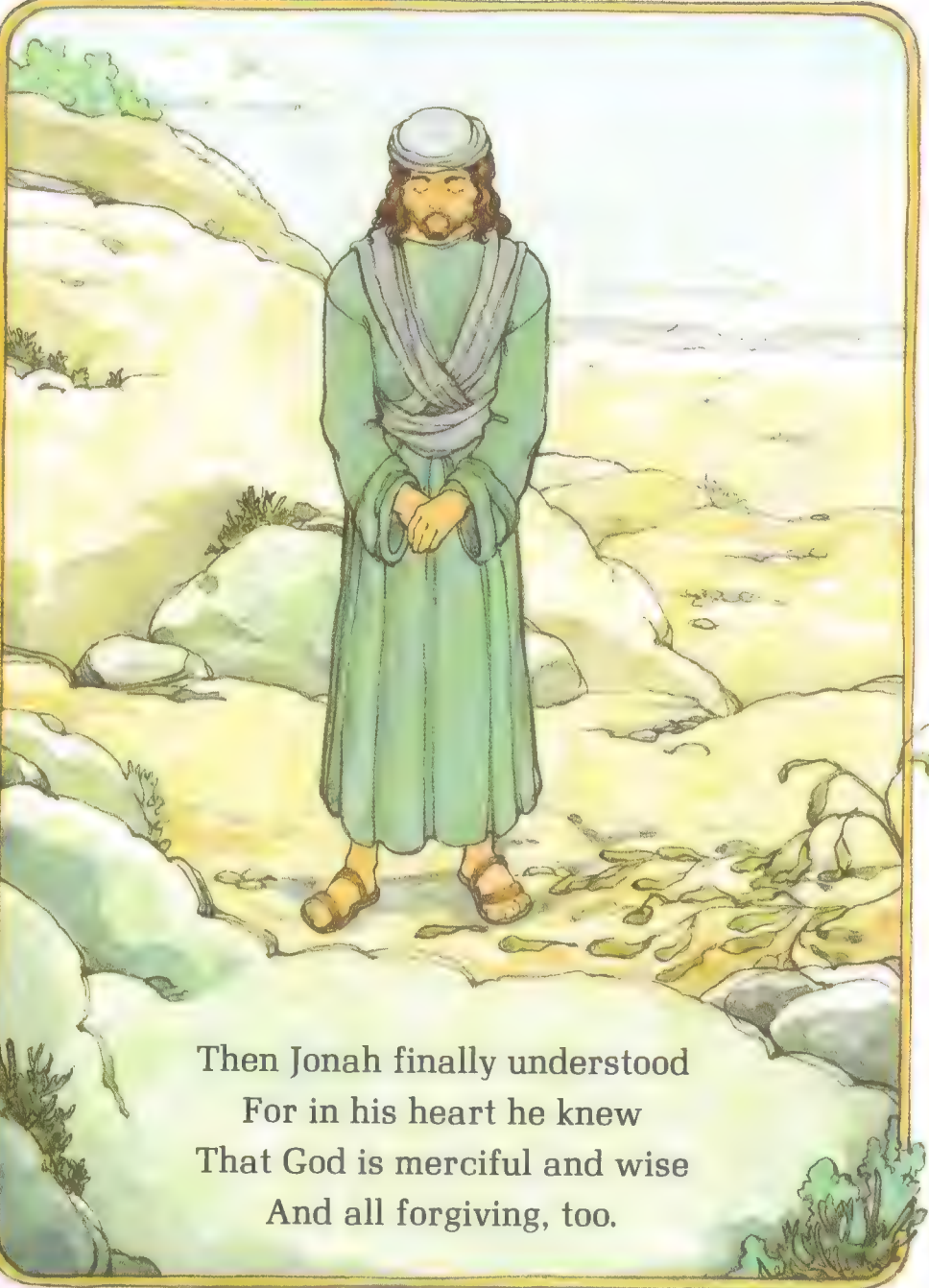
The next day God destroyed the plant
That Jonah learned to love;
He questioned why God did this
And God answered from above:

“You felt pity for a plant
That lived for one short day.
Isn't Ninevah far greater
Than a plant in every way?”



“That city's filled with people
Who were wicked and were bad.
They were sorry and repented
And that made Me very glad.”



A man with a beard and a grey turban, wearing a long green robe with a grey sash, stands on a rocky, hilly landscape. He has his hands clasped in front of him and his eyes are closed in a contemplative or prayerful pose. The background shows rolling hills under a pale sky.

Then Jonah finally understood
For in his heart he knew
That God is merciful and wise
And all forgiving, too.

Alice walked back through the screen,
She put her book away—
And thought, "I learned three special things
In Bibleland today."



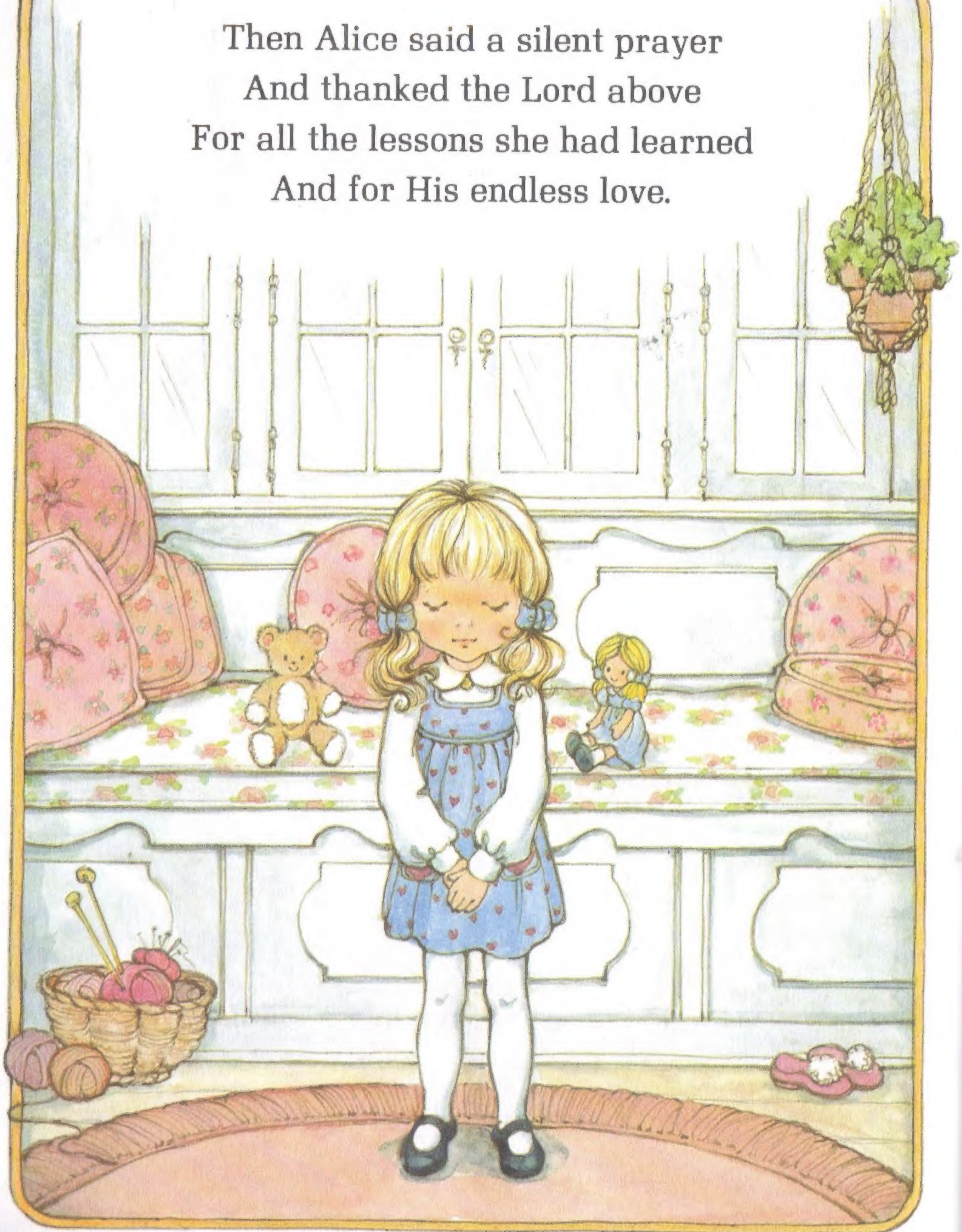


"First of all, we must obey
What God tells us to do;
Then I learned God's everywhere;
We can't hide from His view."



"I also know that when we're bad
And sorry as can be—
God has mercy and has pity
And forgives us lovingly."

Then Alice said a silent prayer
And thanked the Lord above
For all the lessons she had learned
And for His endless love.



Then Alice said a silent prayer
And hoped her kind good
For all the things she had learned
And for the world to come



